

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 31, 2002. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 18 to 20, 26, 27 and 31 to 33 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 26 and 27 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 20 and 26 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and Claims 18 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,801,856 (Moghadam). In response, the rejected claims have been amended so as to clarify that first information and secret key information are input by respectively different input means, as detailed more fully below.

The invention concerns an information input device with a first input for the inputting of first information, and a different second input for communicating externally and inputting secret key information. A digital signature is generated based upon the first information and the secret key information, and the first information containing the digital signature is output. Among the features of the invention is a second input which communicates with an external device and inputs secret key information, using second means which is different from first means for inputting the first information.

Moghadam is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 26 and 27. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least a first input for inputting first information, and a respectively different second input for communicating with an external device and inputting secret key information. In contrast, the applied art is seen to disclose inputting of a private key, but the private key is

included in the security indicia. As such, the private key and the security indicia are not input by separate means.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reason. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Five Times Amended) In an information input device, the combination of:

first input means for inputting first information;

second input means different from said first input means for communicating with [receiving secret key information and software for generating a digital signature from] an external device and inputting [for storing such received] secret key information [and said software, said secret key information being the secret key of a person using the information input device];

generating means for generating [using said software to generate] a digital signature based upon [and to encrypt] said first information and [based upon] said secret key information; and

outputting means for outputting said first information containing said digital signature[,

whereby the output information is provided with the digital signature of the person who uses the information input device].

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Amended) An information input device according to Claim 1 [3],
wherein said generating means generates said digital signature by using [operation uses] public
key cryptography.

5. (Amended) An information input device according to Claim 1 [3], wherein
said generating means generates said [operation for obtaining a] digital signature by using [uses]
RSA cryptosystem.

6. (Five Times Amended) An information input device according to Claim
1, wherein said first input means compresses said first information [comprising:
means for inputting first information;
means for compressing said first information;
means for receiving secret key information and software for generating a digital
signature from an external device and for storing said received secret key information and said
software, said secret key information being the secret key of a person using the information input
device;
means for using said software to generate a distinguishing information and to
encrypt said first information compressed by said compressing means based on said secret key
information; and
means for outputting said first information containing said digital signature,
wherein said external device stores the secret key corresponding to a registered

user; and

whereby the output information is provided with the digital signature of the person who uses the information input device].

7. to 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Amended) An information [image] input device [system] according to Claim 6 [14], further having a CODEC [for compressing the image data based on a compression algorithm].

26. (Five Times Amended) An information input method comprising:
inputting first information from first input means [into an information input device];

communicating with an external device and inputting secret key information from second input means different from said first input means [receiving secret key information and software for generating a digital signature from an external device and for storing the received secret key information and said software, said secret key information being the secret key of a person using the information input device];

generating a digital signature based upon [executing said software to generate a digital signature and to encrypt] said first information and [based upon] said [received] secret key information; and

outputting said first information containing said digital signature[,
whereby the output information is provided with the digital signature of the
person who uses the information input device].

27. (Five Times Amended) A computer readable memory programmed to
cooperate with a data processor and an information input unit to carry out:

a step of inputting first information from first input means [into an information
input device];

a step of communicating with an external device and inputting secret key
information from second input means different from said first input means [receiving secret key
information and software for generating a digital signature from an external device and storing
the received secret key information and said software, said secret key information being the
secret key of a person using the information input device];

a step of generating a digital signature based upon [using said software to generate
a digital signature and to encrypt] said first information and [based upon] said secret key
information [received from the external device]; and

a step of outputting said first information containing said digital signature[,
whereby the output information is provided with the digital signature of the
person who uses the information input device].

28. to 30. (Cancelled)